

TRADITION

(COMMEMORATIVE POSTER INSIDE)

The Bearcat football team celebrates after defeating Shepherd in the Division II National Championship game. The Bearcats finished the season with a perfect record of 15-0.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | SHAWNA KINGSTON

Bearcats throttle Shepherd to complete perfect season

JACOB BLAND
Sports Editor | @J_Bland93

In front of a record crowd of 16,181 people at Sporting Park, Northwest Missouri State (15-0) beat Shepherd (14-1) 34-7 and was crowned as the 2015 National Champion of Division II football.

Northwest never trailed Shepherd, and it did not take long for the Bearcats to score first. On the first play of the game, Shepherd quarterback Jeff Ziemba fumbled the snap and Northwest recovered the ball at the five yard line. After Shepherd's costly mistake, it only took Northwest three plays to score its first touchdown of the day.

The Bearcats would not score again until half-way through the second quarter when sophomore Shane Williams caught a one-yard touchdown pass from senior Brady Bolles. The touchdown was set-up by junior running back Jordan Grove's 74-yard reception. Northwest broke the game wide open by scoring ten points in the final 40 seconds of the second half.

After junior kicker Simon Mathiesen nailed a 30-yard field goal, Shepherd attempted to get some points on the board before halftime, when senior defensive back Bryce Enyard intercepted Ziem-

ba pass and returned it 59 yards for a touchdown. Enyard ended the season with two straight games with an interception return for a touchdown.

The Bearcat defense made big plays all game long, whether it was through sacks or turnovers. Northwest's defense surrendered only 97 total yards of offense and sacked Ziemba a total of 10 times. Junior defensive tackle Collin Bevins led the Bearcats with six total tackles and four sacks.

"We've done a pretty good job all year of getting pressure on the quarterback," Bevins said. "The four sacks doesn't just show how good of a day I had, it shows the defensive line in general, even with the linebackers, and the pressure we were putting on the quarterback. It was a great team game. They had 97 yards of offense and that was awesome, especially in the national championship game."

Shepherd scored its only touchdown of the day, when Ziemba threw a 21-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Billy Brown. The touchdown was setup by a Northwest fumble on a punt return.

In his last game as a Bearcat, Bolles put on another efficient performance as he completed 20 of his 27 pass attempts for 233 yards and a touchdown. Bolles finished the season with 3,981 pass-

ing yards and 30 touchdown passes. He is one of the nine seniors that head coach Adam Dorrel will have to say goodbye to.

"I first want to say that I am really proud of our seniors, there is no way we would have done this without our senior leadership," Dorrel said. "Those guys have set a new standard at Northwest Missouri State for the expectation level from a work standpoint."

Each year, Northwest is expected to compete for a National championship, but this year's championship, Northwest's fifth, had a different feel. Coming into the season, no one gave the Bearcats much of a chance to win it all. Dorrel didn't even see this one coming. Before the team played its first game, he said Northwest was only a 7 win football team. While his players didn't take offense to his statement, they did use it as motivation.

"That's been our rally cry all year," Bolles said. "I remember during summer conditioning, people were yelling out '7-4, do you want to be 7-4?' Anytime I heard that, I was like 'I'm going to push it that much more.' You can take (what he said) two ways, you can take it as a slap to the face or Dorrel knew we were going to use that as motivation and it worked."

Senior quarterback cements Bolles dynasty

JACOB BLAND
Sports Editor | @J_Bland93

While Northwest senior quarterback Brady Bolles was growing up, he had dreams of playing on the national stage and winning the Heisman Trophy. Even though his early childhood dreams did not come true, he would probably admit that he would not want it any other way.

"Being able to win (the national championship) my senior year and go out the way we did, go undefeated and say 'we are the best in the country' is definitely pretty sweet," Brady said. "I've learned so much in my time here at Northwest. It's such a special place. To be able to step away and say 'this was the best four years of my life' is an understatement because that was exactly what it was."

Coming into the 2015 football season, nobody knew what to expect from Northwest's football team. All

anyone knew was the Bearcats were a young team coming off a disappointing loss in the first round of the Division II Championship Playoffs the previous year. Oh, throw in the fact that the Bearcats' head coach Adam Dorrel said that they were only a "seven win football team." To many football programs around the country, a seven-win proclamation would not sound like a total shot to the arm, but in Bearcat country the stakes are higher and that prediction rang as utter despair.

While many people would see it as an insult, the Bearcat football players saw that statement as a challenge, specifically Brady. Dorrel's prediction was not Brady's only challenge.

His other challenge was winning the national championship as Northwest's starting quarterback. While the Bearcats won the national championship his sophomore year, he was the backup, not the starter.



SHAWNA KINGSTON | NW MISSOURIAN

SEE **BOLLES** | A4

Senior quarterback Brady Bolles celebrates after winning his second National Championship in three years.

Wrestling team proves quality over quantity

TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter | @TreyRock36

It has been a little over four weeks since the Maryville Spoofhounds first wrestling match of the season and already this year's team appears to be on pace with last year's team which sent six wrestlers to the state tournament.

Head coach Connor Kellerstrass stated earlier this season that due to uncharacteristically small numbers, the emphasis would be placed on improving individually each week. And if the first part of this season is any indication, his plan has come to fruition.

"Individually, the guys have improved a lot and we can see that with how they finished last year and started this year," Kellerstrass said. "With our small numbers it's hard to see success that way but individually the guys have done a good job and they keep improving."

But simply improving week to week is not the primary goal for this



year's Spoofhounds. Like any team coming off a historically good season, the carryover in regards to momentum is paramount for this team and its pursuit of another loaded trip to Columbia for the annual state tournament. Coach Kellerstrass is not the only one looking to improve on a successful 2015 campaign. Senior Jacob Partridge is on the same page.

"I hope to take more people to state than we did last year which will be tough to do," Partridge said.

The formula for success remains the same after the first four weeks according to Kellerstrass.

"Just learning how to finish out periods. There has been a lot of times we give up easy points towards the end of the period," Kellerstrass said. "We have to do a better job at closing out hard."

That appears to be a common sentiment uttered by both player and coach. For a team to be truly successful, this is key.

"We're just looking to compete," Kellerstrass continued. "We've been



HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN

With a low number of wrestlers this year, the Spoofhounds look to improve individually throughout the season.

working and improving on our feet and working out from underneath. If we can take people down and get out, we'll be tough to beat."

Kellerstrass believes that in order for the team to be truly successful, one must buy into the process that includes hard work and attention to detail in regards to technique.

And to reach its goal of sending more wrestlers to the state tournament, the team knows the improvements made since opening day must continue. Junior Matthew Twaddle acknowledges this.

"We have to do a better job limiting pins. They're the biggest thing because, in duels, they stack up

against you and they're really hard to overcome," Twaddle explained. "We need to continue to be aggressive on our feet and getting as many takedowns as possible."

The wrestling team will take on Falls City High School and Sabetha High School Thursday, Jan. 14 at Maryville High School.

Chiefs face tall task against New England

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Chief Sports Reporter
@joe_andrews15



The Kansas City Chiefs' season has been a ride. Who would have thought the Chiefs would be in the second round of the NFL playoffs after a 1-5 start? The Chiefs are on an 11 game winning streak. The most recent win brought Kansas City the first Chiefs' playoff victory since 1994. The game began with a kickoff return for a touchdown by Knile Davis. The game ended in a

thirty point shutout over the Houston Texans. Overall, the Chiefs' defense forced five turnovers, all of which were committed by Houston quarterback Brian Hoyer. This gave the offense plenty of room to run up the scoreboard.

The Chiefs' defense will be key in their next matchup against the New England Patriots Jan. 16. The defending Super Bowl Champions entered the playoffs as a second seed within the AFC. This gave the team a first round bye week which comes as much needed rest for the Patriots. The team lost four of the final six regular season games despite beginning the season 12-0. The way

the Patriots ended the regular season is the least of the worries for the organization. The last time the two teams met, the Chiefs slaughtered the Patriots 41-14 at Arrowhead Stadium when Tom Brady was benched after throwing 159 yards and two interceptions by the middle of the fourth quarter.

The Chiefs are expected to push the Patriots to the limit once again with the defensive pressure that has been with the Chiefs throughout the 11 game win streak. If the Chiefs can get through the Patriot offensive line, pressure will be put on Tom Brady, leaving the chance for potential offensive mistakes by the Patri-

ots. Keep in mind, the Chiefs have had a combined 47 sacks and 22 interceptions this season. If the trend continues, Tom Brady could have one tough game.

Each and every stop by the Chiefs defense will come as an advantage for the offense. With a strong offensive line followed by the awareness of quarterback Alex Smith and his receivers on offense, the Patriots are unlikely to catch the offense off task more than a few times in the game. Smith has thrown for 20 touchdowns with only seven interceptions this season. Smith has also transformed into a runner if it looks like the better option. He has


rushed for 498 touchdowns and two touchdowns.

If the Chiefs can find a way to beat the Patriots and the banged up Pittsburgh Steelers can muster out a win against Peyton Manning and company, they will play for a spot in the Super Bowl at Arrowhead Stadium.

Just a few weeks ago it did not seem probable that the Chiefs could make it this far. Since then, the Chiefs have shown up each and every week, pulling away from games while also saving themselves from losing a few. In doing this, the Chiefs have shown they are a championship caliber team.




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JOSEPH ANDREWS
Chief Sports Reporter
@joe_andrews15

It is official. The Rams are moving back to Los Angeles after playing 21 seasons in St. Louis. The move came as pure arrogance. St. Louis has given the Rams everything the city can offer since the team arrived in 1995. This is also more than the Rams deserve based on their pathetic performance in twelve of these years.

The current condition of the their now former stadium does not meet the stadium lease which was originally given. The city knows that. It tried to fix it. Rams owner Stan Kroenke wanted more than his team deserved from the city.

A part of the lease included the promise of providing the Rams with a “first tier” stadium through 2025. This meant the then newly-built Edwards Jones Dome must be within the top 25 percent of NFL stadiums at the ten and twenty year marks of the lease. Arbitration talks or opting out of the lease were options if the deal was not met. The stadium was not classified as first tier in either year.

Discussions involving renovations occurred after the 2005 check until each party decided to remain neutral. The city of St. Louis ensured the stadium would be first tier at the next checkpoint.

Renovations in 2009 were made to add a new scoreboard along with updated technology in the concourse, suites and locker rooms. The renovations also added glass panels to the roof to increase the amount of natural light in the stadium. This was not enough to classify the stadium as first tier in 2015. The Rams decided to avoid the route of additional arbitration allowing an opt-out of the lease, leaving a chance for relocation.

Plans to renovate the Edwards Jones Dome were proposed before 2015. Both sides insisted on renovations which would scrap the stadium for a new concept. Neither party could come to agreement.

Even if a renovation plan was agreed upon, the taxpayers are still paying for the original construction. Additional renovation would create additional dedication to the use of the stadium for years into the future.

Governor Jay Nixon also created a task force to design a concept for a new stadium which could keep the Rams in St. Louis. The concept was an open-air stadium located along the Mississippi river.

The group also came up with a payment model for the \$1.1 billion stadium. The stadium would finance \$150 million as part of the funding, the NFL would pay \$250 million, the team would pay \$200 million with a loan from the NFL and tickets would pay \$160 million. Any remaining balance would come from bonds or taxes. The financing from the city had already been approved. Kroenke should have been grateful for such an opportunity. Instead, he went on and filed for relocation.

The relocation is not all about the stadium. Kroenke feels like the St. Louis fanbase is not enough financially. In the relocation filing,

Kroenke roasted St. Louis by saying the city only cares about the Cardinals (MLB) and Blues (NHL). The two teams have been to the playoffs a combined 27 times since the Rams arrived in St. Louis.

The Rams organization has been to the playoffs five times since relocating to St. Louis. The team won the Super Bowl in its first appearance in 1999. The last playoff appearance was in 2004.

The Rams organization needs to build the rich tradition the Cardinals and Blues have established to gain the strong fan base that it saw in the early 2000s.

The Edward Jones Dome has a capacity of 66,965 fans. Attendance averaged at 65,000 fans per game until 2008. After 2008, the average attendance per game has dropped to nearly 55,000 fans.

This past season, the Rams had the worst attendance average in the NFL, averaging 54,402 fans a game. While Kroenke did not have full ownership of the Rams until 2009, the attendance slump has been seen in his entire reign as owner. It will probably continue if the Rams move.

Los Angeles is currently home to the Angels (MLB), Dodgers (MLB), Kings (NHL), Ducks (NHL), Clippers (NBA) and Lakers (NBA). Each team has deep roots and history in the city. Keep in mind, Los Angeles is a completely different market than St. Louis. Kroenke thinks the market difference will allow the attendance issues to magically disappear.

In all reality, nobody is going to come out and pay to watch the Rams lose consistently while the other teams have proven to be playoff material. Some of the NFL team owners who will vote on relocation know this.

The NFL is dedicated to bringing football back to Los Angeles. Owners against the Rams relocation would like the San Diego Chargers and the Oakland Raiders to relocate. Unlike the Rams, these two teams have no possibility of a new stadium in their respective cities.

The Raiders are the last team in the NFL to share a home stadium with a team from Major League Baseball. While the Raiders would like to remain in Oakland, they are open to moving as the city has yet to come up with a new home for the them. Recent developments have suggested the Raiders will end up getting an agreement with Oakland, but it has yet to happen.

The Chargers have been playing in their current stadium since 1967. The stadium was once shared with the San Diego Padres (MLB). The Padres have since acquired their own stadium.

The city council has approved a proposal to build a new stadium for the Chargers. However, the funding for a new football stadium in San Diego is close to nothing. This leaves the Chargers concerned.

The Raiders and Chargers originally combined their lack of a new stadium to propose a combined stadium in Los Angeles. The NFL since rejected the idea and suggested the Chargers share a stadium with the Rams. The idea could become a reality if the Chargers chose to relocate.



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Brady (10) and Blake (11) Bolles combined to win three National Championships (2009, 2013, 2015) in the span of seven years.

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BOLLES
CONTINUED FROM A1

“He (Blake Bolles) would always joke and say ‘yeah you got a championship, but you weren’t the guy, you weren’t the starter,’” Brady said. “For us to be able to win it this year, I can now one-up him and say ‘hey, I’ve got two, you’ve got one,’ so that is pretty cool.”

Northwest won the national championship in 2009, with Blake as the starting quarterback. Blake’s efforts were huge for Northwest during its championship run as he passed for 4,145 yards, which still stands as the most passing yards in a season in school history. Little did the Bolles know, that championship win would be the first of three the two brothers would combine for.

Blake and Brady never played

for Northwest at the same time, but Blake helped establish a foundation that Brady and the Northwest football team could build off of. Brady joined the football team in 2012 and he would be the backup quarterback for his first two seasons.

Despite being a backup to Trevor Adams, Brady still found ways to make an impact on the team. Northwest won the national championship in 2013 and Brady played a major

role the team’s success. Brady’s dual-threat ability not only gave Northwest another added dimension, but it also led to him receiving an unusual amount of playing time for a backup.

At the conclusion of the 2013 National championship season, Brady amassed more than 1,600 yards of total offense, which undoubtedly cemented him as Northwest’s quarterback of the future. Brady’s experience as a backup during the 2013 season gave him and his teammates something to lean on as the Bearcats made their championship run this year.

“Having that big-game experience going into the playoffs this year was huge, especially with how young we were,” Brady said. “We had some juniors and seniors that had played in 2013 who knew what to expect throughout the playoffs and they were able to lead the younger guys. (Those guys) knew what to expect in each big game and were able to keep (the younger players) calm.”

Brady’s path to winning his second national championship did not come easy. Early in the season Northwest was winning games, but the offense was not playing to its full potential. It was not until Northwest’s game against Northeastern State that the offense started to click on all cylinders. Despite the surrounding youth and inconsistency, Brady never panicked and had faith in the teammates around him.

“Early on, we were just one guy away from being right where we wanted to be as an offense,” Brady said. “I think a little bit of that was

we were just a young team and inexperienced at some positions. About midway through the year, they got their feet wet, played in some games, handled some adversity, and they just kind of grew up a little bit as football players. Once that happened, the offense took off down the stretch.”

Once the offense found its groove, Brady caught fire and put up impressive passing numbers. In Northwest’s final game of the 2015 regular season against Washburn, Brady passed for a career-high 402 yards and three touchdowns. Brady’s leadership and patience might have been the missing piece to Northwest’s championship aspirations.


“I thought he was very diligent with his preparation. I also thought he was very diligent in preparing the young guys and holding them accountable,” Dorrel said. “Our senior class was phenomenal this year and, obviously, he had a big hand in that.”

After the final whistle blew of the 2015 Division II National Championship, Northwest was crowned as the champion and Brady’s legacy at Northwest was sealed. Besides winning two national championships, Brady will go down as one of the most prolific quarterbacks in Northwest’s history. During his four years as a Bearcat, Brady accumulated a school best 9,296 total yards of offense. Fittingly, Blake is second on that list with 42 yards less than him. Both Brady and Blake’s accomplishments not only contributed to Northwest attaining a football dynasty, but their very own in Maryville, as well.



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Veteran sharp-shooter continues to build legacy

JACOB BLAND
Sports Editor | @J_Bland93

For four years senior guard Conner Crooker has been a model of consistency for the Northwest men's basketball team. Not too long ago, head coach Ben McCollum had the task of rebuilding Northwest men's basketball program. Amidst the rebuilding process, Crooker was bought in as a recruit.

"He's a high I.Q. basketball player, an excellent kid. You do not have to worry about him on or away from (the basketball court)," McCollum said. "He is definitely the type of player we like to recruit."

Before coming to Northwest, Crooker played at Blue Valley North High School. His efforts led to the school's turnaround. While his high school did not win a state championship, he walked away knowing he helped lead the team to an unprecedented third-place finish in the state tournament.

After his high school basketball career came to a close, Crooker knew that Northwest was the right place for him to keep playing the sport he loved. Since joining the team in 2012, Crooker has played a major role in Northwest's success. Crooker's ability to make clutch baskets in key situations has proven to be an intangible asset.

"He won (us the game against Minnesota State) last year and hit (a game winning shot) against Northeastern State his freshman year," McCollum said. "He is a big shot shooter. He could go zero for 20 and, if the game was on the line, he will knock it down."

The game McCollum referenced against Minnesota State was a 59-56 victory for the Bearcats in the first round of the 2015 NCAA Division II tournament. Both teams were tied 56-56 in the final seconds before Crooker made a two-point basket to seal the win. Behind his heroics, the Bearcats were able to advance to the Sweet 16, before losing to Minnesota State Moorhead.

Crooker's hard work and dedication, which started at a young age, is a contributing factor in his ability to develop into a sharp-shooter along the perimeter.

"Since I was little, my dad has been rebounding for me (while I practice shooting basketball)," Crooker said. "He taught me my shot and told me what to do. Now in college, I (practice my shooting) al-

most everyday. I know (shooting) is a big part of my game and that also opens up my drives."

Crooker's accuracy and consistency has steered him into Northwest's record book. Through 14 games of his senior season, Crooker ranks second all-time behind associate head coach Austin Meyer, with 178 made three-pointers, and first all-time in free-throw percentage at 86 percent.

Crooker is Northwest's lone senior and his willingness to lead and contribute is something coach McCollum has heavily relied upon. Before coming to Northwest, Crooker's defensive skills were unpolished. As he has progressed under coach McCollum's watchful eye, he has developed into one of the team's best defenders.

"Defensively, I have become a lot better," Crooker said. "I was kind of the man in high school, I did not have to focus much on defense. Now, in college, it's a lot different and I have to rebound more. Coach McCollum works on (defense) every day, so you'll become better defensively if you listen to him. I've been listening to him and doing what he says, so it's definitely helped me a lot."

Crooker's unselfishness and ability to develop into a quality defender has paid big dividends for Northwest. Coming into the 2015-2016 season, the team had to collectively look for a way to replace graduating senior Matt Wallace's defensive presence. Wallace was a defensive stalwart for the Bearcats, which led to him being named as MIAA Defensive Player of the Year last season.

Through 14 games, Northwest is 10-4 and Crooker's leadership and production has been a huge part of the team's success. Crooker has played in all of Northwest's 14 games and is second on the team with 12.9 points per game. Last week, Crooker was named MIAA Athlete of the Week, after averaging 22.5 points in two games against Avila University and Central Oklahoma. In Northwest's matchup with Central Oklahoma, Crooker scored a career-high 27 points to lead the Bearcats to a 78-59 victory.

"He has really grown as a kid," McCollum said. "He has gotten a lot tougher since his freshman year and obviously he is having an excellent senior year. He has been here for four years, he knows the system, he knows his role, he's unselfish, and he's just an unbelievable kid."



BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN
Senior Conner Crooker's ability to make outside shots has been a proven commodity for the Bearcats.

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Track standout shines early on in season

ISAIAH SWANN
Asst. Sports Editor | @Iswann3503

Senior Chloe Wichmann broke two school records at the Charlie Foster Pre-Holiday Classic Dec. 11, 2015.

Wichmann is a special athlete to say the least, but she was not gifted with natural talent as many athletes are. She has had a tenacious attitude throughout her career at Northwest and has been successful because of her own hard work and determination. Wichmann was able to break the long jump record with a leap of 19 feet 1.5 inches as well as in the pentathlon with a total of 3,858 points.

Coach Scott Lorek is entering his twelfth season as head coach of the women's track and field team at Northwest and loves the hard work that Wichmann puts out each and every day.

"The thing about Chloe is the busier we keep her, the better she does. It doesn't make sense physically and other coaches may be seeing it as me trying to kill her but the thing is she actually responds better as opposed to resting," Lorek said.

Lorek is full of humor and is always encouraging his players to do better. "I told her she didn't suck that day," Lorek said, (after Wichmann broke two school records). "It's about being able to stay loose, having fun with it and to just really

enjoy the daily stuff you have to do. We want to have a balance of working hard and keeping the fun in it."

The standout trait that Wichmann possesses is her will to work harder each and every day in practice and in competition.

"That's where her leadership is. I don't think I've ever had anyone who just plain works harder than her. I can tell you as the coach that has worked with her, not everything clicks," Coach Lorek said. "She had to struggle, she's had to work and deal with different issues, but through it all she has been extremely persevering through it all."

Coach Lorek has certainly made his mark since taking his coaching positions here at Northwest. Since taking over the job, the Bearcat women have had 29 student-athletes obtain 82 All-MIAA honors in seven seasons. Nine have earned four or more All-MIAA awards.

"I just really enjoy our program, our staff and our kids. I really think we have a great thing going here and I look forward to it every day. It's the belief and the competitiveness to be fearless in going after things. Some people are buying into what we're trying to do and it really comes down to confidence, belief and trust," Lorek said.

Coach Lorek has instilled this sense of trust in all of his players from top to bottom in all of the teams he has coached over the years and this year seems to be no different.

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BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN
Senior Trystan Lyle practices layups Nov. 16, 2015, in preparation for the rest of the season. The Spoofhounds next home game will be Jan. 15.

Chemistry is key for Hounds success

JOSEPH ANDREWS
Chief Sports Reporter | @Joe_Andrews15

Maryville High School Spoofhounds boys basketball looks to remain in competitive form as the second half of the season begins.

Head coach Matt Stoecklein says this is something the team is capable of doing following a 7-4 start to the season.

“We are heading in the right direction,” Stoecklein said. “The kids are working hard and having a lot of fun. Things are going pretty well.”

The Spoofhounds have lost three times this season. One came in a 57-80 game against Staley in the Savannah tournament.

The other three came as MEC losses with a 65-66 loss to Benton, a 39-78 loss to Lafayette and a 67-54 loss to Chillicothe. Each loss has reminded the Spoofhounds to keep moving forward with one goal in mind.

“A loss is always good,” Oglesby said. “It sucks to lose. You hate to lose more than you love to win. Coming back from them is very important. It shows what the team is made of.”

The team’s ability to work together and come back from bad games comes from relationships within the team. Some relationships began before members of the team were Spoofhounds.

“We are all pretty close,” junior Trey Oglesby said. “We have been together since we were little. Even if we were not together, we played against each other, so we know each other’s game. We are getting more experience while we are out there.”

Knowing each member’s skills allows the Spoofhounds to adjust

their strategy as needed. Different athletes stand out in each game as a result.

“It has been multiple players that have been stepping up,” Stoecklein said. “Specifically, Trey (Oglesby) has started to become more local and become more of a positive leader. So that is a good thing.”

The Spoofhounds look to keep the identity they established in the pre-season through the second half of the season, leading them towards the chance of post-season success.

“We keep talking about districts,” Stoecklein said. “I think we have a good shot at districts and really even farther than that. We have a very good ball team. We have high expectations.”

There are still ten games before districts take place. The Spoofhounds believe they have a chance to feed off of each game to make it to the championship. Some games stand out to the team more than others. The town of Maryville is a huge support to the team, specifically at home.

“Our crowd is just amazing,” Stoecklein said. “They have these crazy theme nights. They come with so much energy. Our boys just feed off of it. It is amazing.”

Five of the remaining regular season games occur at home with four of them coming back to back. The homestand begins against Fall City, NE Jan. 15. It will continue with Mid-Buchanan Jan. 18, Savannah Jan. 22 and Bishop LeBlond Feb. 1.

“It is always better with the crowd in it,” Oglesby said. “When the crowd is up, we are up. It’s always easy with all of them behind you.”



BRIA CREEDEN | NW MISSOURIAN
Tanya Meyer drives to the basket against the University of Saint Mary's. Northwest won the game 67-35 Nov. 30.

Women continue to struggle amid coaching change

ISAIAH SWANN
Assistant Sports Editor | @iswanny3503

Buck Scheel's transition to interim head coach has been a strenuous one since taking over Dec. 16, 2015, following Coach Michael Smith's unexpected resignation for personal reasons.

The team is winless so far while under the direction of Scheel, but looking at the Bearcats' record would not tell you the full story of the progress he has made with this young team.

It couldn't have come at a worse time for the Bearcats as they dove into conference play and the more difficult part of their schedule.

"When things took place, there really wasn't a lot of time to think about it. We just had to jump right in and go with it," Coach Scheel said. "The biggest thing is the girls just all came together and looked at it as we have an opportunity here and we need to do what coach is asking and let the outcome be determined later on."

With things looking grim for the women's basketball team, they have not given up and if anything been strengthened by such performances.

"I think we've been making strides. For the most part, we have done a pretty good job of growing. They've stayed positive through everything and tried to get over the

hump," Scheel said. "We've just come up short at the end. A few possessions here and there and the outcome would be different. We need to put together four solid quarters."

Senior Tember Schechinger has been stepping up the last couple games posting back-to-back double doubles. Not only has Schechinger been stuffing the stat sheet, she has now been entrusted with taking late game shots when the team desperately needs them.

"The next step is finishing the play and finishing every quarter. In the third quarter, we struggle. We can't have that, we need to come out with defense and attack on offense as well," Schechinger said. "The biggest thing is keeping the girls hungry, keeping them motivated. If we've got good energy and good effort every day, then things start to carry over come game time."

This is the third Coach Schechinger has played under, so she is very familiar with the position she and her team have been put in.

"The reaction from everyone was an 'oh my gosh' type moment, but we already had coach Scheel, so we knew what to expect, which made the transition go very smooth," Schechinger said.

No matter what the outcomes seem to be, all of coach Scheel's athletes have his back through this crucial transition.



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| MIAA Standings | | |
| | Overall | MIAA |
| Lindenwood..... | 11-4 | 7-2 |
| NORTHWEST..... | 10-4 | 7-2 |
| Missouri Southern..... | 10-6 | 7-3 |
| Lincoln..... | 10-5 | 6-3 |
| Fort Hays St..... | 11-4 | 5-4 |
| Washburn | 9-5 | 5-4 |
| Nebraska Kearney..... | 8-6 | 5-4 |
| Central Missouri | 9-5 | 3-5 |
| Southwest Baptist..... | 8-6 | 3-5 |
| Central Oklahoma..... | 7-8 | 3-6 |
| Emporia St..... | 6-9 | 3-6 |
| Missouri Western..... | 5-10 | 3-6 |
| Northeastern St..... | 4-9 | 3-6 |
| Pittsburg State..... | 8-8 | 3-7 |

| NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL | | |
|------------------------|---------|------|
| MIAA Standings | | |
| | Overall | MIAA |
| Missouri Western | 15-0 | 9-0 |
| Fort Hays St..... | 14-1 | 8-1 |
| Emporia St..... | 13-2 | 7-2 |
| Washburn..... | 10-5 | 6-3 |
| Pittsburg State..... | 12-4 | 6-4 |
| Central Oklahoma | 11-4 | 5-4 |
| Missouri Southern..... | 11-5 | 5-5 |
| Central Missouri | 5-8 | 4-4 |
| Nebraska-Kearney..... | 8-7 | 4-5 |
| Lindenwood..... | 7-8 | 3-6 |
| Southwest Baptist..... | 7-7 | 2-6 |
| Lincoln..... | 6-9 | 2-7 |
| Northeastern St..... | 5-10 | 2-7 |
| NORTHWEST..... | 2-13 | 0-9 |

Jan. 16
NORTHWEST at Washburn
Central Missouri at Lincoln
Missouri Southern at Pittsburg State
Missouri Western at Emporia State

Jan. 21
NORTHWEST vs Nebraska-Kearney
Central Missouri at Northeastern
Missouri Southern at Lincoln
Fort Hays St. at Missouri Western

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SHAWNA KINGSTON | NW MISSOURIAN
Freshman Emma Baldwin moves around the court Tuesday evening against East Buchanan. The Spoofhounds lost to the Bulldogs 46-25.

Girls show promise under new head coach

TREY RANDLE
Chief Sports Reporter | @TreyRock36

When a team finishes 1-23, questions are bound to be asked. That was the case with the girls basketball team at Maryville High School following the 2015 season. Enter Quentin Albrecht, the energetic, erudite instructor who, in the midst of his first season at MHS, seeks to turn the program around.

Sitting at 3-8 entering the week of Jan. 11, the Spoofhounds have already tripled their win total from a year ago. But complacency is the furthest thing from their minds. Or at least that is the message relayed by coach Albrecht.

“We would like to get double digits in wins,” Albrecht said. “Which is a tall order for a team that started 0-23 last year, but there is still a chance that we can attain that goal.”

But this will not be an overnight process. The team is showing noticeable improvement, but both players and coach share the belief that the team is not anywhere close to being where they want to be. But significant strides have been made and Albrecht contributes this season’s improvement to a new sense of camaraderie.

“We would like to play in the district title game,” Albrecht continued. “I thought our were a group that had potential but didn’t seem to work together as a unit.”

Junior Felicia Sheil and sophomore Ambrelea Auffert are on the same page as their coach. They also attribute the improvement to an emphasis on teamwork.



“We really work together,” said Sheil. “We also play off of each other’s strengths while lifting each other up. We really want to grow as people, become closer as teammates and create a stronger team in general.”

While partial credit can be given to the players for their improvement this season, one cannot help but give notice the architect of it all: the head coach.

“More experience,” Sheil said about the difference Albrecht makes. “He uplifts the team. He helps us work on our mistakes and makes sure we understand what we’re doing. He helps build confidence.”

One of the key characteristics of an exceptional coach is the ability to make players feel better than what they are by building confidence. That is not to say this year’s team is without talent. One of the first things Albrecht mentions is the potential of the team that is only lacking in the cohesion needed to reach that next level.

“The goal was to create a sense of ownership where each player had a sense of ownership in this team and what we’re trying to do,” Albrecht said. “And now I see that in them. They get along well. They communicate well. They like each other and they play well for each other.”

In a game so dependent on chemistry and communication, it appears that Albrecht and Co. have found their formula to success. The only way to know for sure is by measuring the by product that takes place on the hardwood. MHS takes on Falls City High School Jan. 15 and Penney High School Jan. 19 at Maryville High.



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Northwest Bearcats ended the season with a 15-0 record after defeating Shepard University 34-7 Dec. 19, 2015, at Sporting Park KC in the National Championship game.

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HANNAH WOODSON | NW MISSOURIAN

A poll run by CNN shows 67 percent of Americans are in favor of President Obama's executive order on 'common sense' gun control measures.

Obama introduces new gun regulation

JAMES HENDERSON III
Editor in Chief | @jendersoniii

Gun control has already taken a different look early into 2016. President Barack Obama, just beginning his last year in office, passed down an executive order calling for changes in the nation's gun laws. Before the new year, Obama put together a task force consisting of Attorney General Loretta Lynch,

FBI Director James Comey, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Deputy Director Thomas Brandon and personnel at the White House to come up with things that needed to be changed in the American gun system. Obama took their suggestions and turned them into a four-part executive order. During a speech delivered from the White House, Obama explained why he is now passing down this executive order.

"I'm not on the ballot again. I'm not looking to score some points," Obama said. "I think we can disagree without impugning other people's motives without being disagreeable. We don't need to be talking past one another. But we do have to feel a sense of urgency about it. In Dr. King's words, we need to feel the 'fierce urgency of now' because people are dying and the constant excuses for inaction no longer do, no longer suffice."

Obama said the executive order was aimed at providing "common sense" gun control measures. Section one focused on requiring background checks in all avenues of gun purchases and making the background check system more efficient with help from the FBI and opening the system to 24 hours, seven days a week. The second section focused on providing additional funding to the ATF to help better enforce laws already in place. The third in-

creased funding for mental illness care and its relevance in the background checks. The final portion of the order targeted gun safety technology, employing multiple departments to look into technology that would make guns safer for the owner and those in the vicinity.

SEE **GUNS** | B5



SHAWNA KINGSTON | NW MISSOURIAN

States like Kansas, Ohio and New York have began passing laws pushing for municipalities to raise the smoking age to 21.

Tobacco ordinances raise legal age

JAKE MCKNIGHT
News Editor | @jbmcnight93

Cities in Missouri continue to ban the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21. By a 6-1 vote, the Independence city council passed the ordinance to raise the legal smoking age from 18 to 21 years old. It is the third metro city to do so in less than a month. The Independence vote follows similar action by the Kansas City Council and the Board of Commissioners of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kan., which banned the sales of cigarettes and other tobacco prod-

ucts to people younger than age 21. The goal is to convince every municipality in the metro area to raise its legal age for buying tobacco products, from 18 to 21, the same age it is for alcohol. The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, under the Tobacco 21 KC campaign launched in October, hopes other cities join in, making the metro area the second largest in the country to take this step. Hawaii became the first state to raise the smoking age to 21 starting Jan. 1, and similar measures have been introduced in eight other states

SEE **TOBACCO** | B5

Northwest places ban on hoverboards due to safety concerns

DARCIE BRADFORD
Managing Editor | @Darcie_Jeannae_731

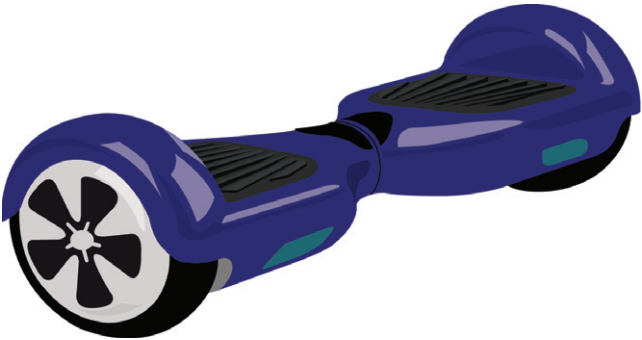
Northwest has issued a ban on one of the most popular Christmas gifts of 2015. While drones received a lot of attention last year during the holiday season, the new self-balancing scooters, also known as hoverboards, were even more popular. The University has banned hoverboards in all campus buildings as of Jan. 7. The boards may be used outside, but may not be present in any campus building at any time and students must check with Residen-

tial Life before storing hoverboards in their dorm rooms. Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker suggested the ban, and feels it is the safest decision for the campus. "I suggested to other university leaders that we implement a ban to insure we are maintaining a safe environment," Baker said. "After the Consumer Product Safety Commission announced a probe into the safety of the devices, we decided it was prudent to issue a temporary ban."

The ban issued is a precaution-

ary ban due to several consumer reports of hoverboards overheating and catching fire and, in some cases, exploding. The National Fire Protection Association issued a fire safety warning after receiving several requests for safety tips for the hover boards and their lithium-ion batteries. The lithium-ion batteries have been reported by consumers to leak and prove to be another cause for the hoverboard to catch fire.

SEE **HOVERBOARD** | B5



Reports of hoverboards overheating, catching fire and, in some cases, exploding, have led to the National Fire Protection Association to issue a fire safety warning.

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Horizons West solves bedbug problem, residents return

DAVID MOGLER
News Reporter | @DavidMogler

Some questions from students and non-students living at Horizons West remain unanswered in the wake of recent developments concerning the past bedbug extermination effort.

Substandard tags adorning the outside doors of the residential complex were removed in a signal assuring that exterminators adequately dealt with the pest. The effort began more than five months ago as 150 international students faced the burden of bringing their laundry and other belongings in for cleaning out bedbugs.

Many of the infestation problems experienced by Horizon’s West residents may come down to taking proper preventative measures according to resident and interna-

tional student Saikrishna Memidi of Videyawede India.

“It (prevention) just doesn’t depend on the city, it depends on individuals to keep things clean and neat, it’s a daily habit. It’s a moral responsibility to keep things clean and neat...if we can keep the rooms clean and kitchens clean, we can solve so many health issues, not just bedbugs,” Meimidi said.

The order to clear out residents from Horizon’s West during the pest extermination left many of the non-student residents left without a place to stay. Orders to leave were mandatory for students. Some of the non-student residents simply ignored the advisement to leave and others drove more than an hour away to stay with friends. Lucas Runyon, a Machine Operator at the Kawasaki plant here in Maryville came

home to find little more than advisory posted on the door.

“Basically all they did was have Maryville public safety take my information but they never followed up. I went to work that day and came back when the shops were apparently supposed to be closed down, but I just went right in like nothing happened. No cops or anything except a substandard sign on the door... It really was for the students more than anything... I just kept living there with no follow up from the city,” Runyon said.

Runyon furthermore made it a point that the pest-control company Alert No. 1 did a good job in exterminating the bedbugs.

Several students moved back in for the start of the Spring 2016 semester. As for now, Horizon’s West remains clear of problem.



KOLBY SINCLAIR | NW MISSOURIAN
Horizons West opened its doors to residents again after closing last semester.



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English program adds new majors

JAKE MCKNIGHT
News-editor | @jbkmcknight93

Northwest commences with changes to the English program for 2016.

Over the course of the holiday break, Northwest’s Board of Regents approved changes that would replace the Bachelor of Science in English with a Bachelor of Science in Writing. The adjusted curriculum hopes to prepare graduates for a broad range of careers that require writing skills, including creative writing.

The two new degrees that have been proposed are a Bachelor in Arts in writing and a Bachelor in Science in writing, with the opportunity to specialize in creative writing and publication or professional writing. They also modified the Bachelor in Arts in English to include a concentration in creative writing.

The Bachelor of Science focuses on professional writing, which allows students to cover areas such as technical writing, editing, and publishing.

A new emphasis in creative writing was added to the existing Bachelor of Arts in English degree. The board also approved the creation of new Bachelor of Arts degrees in the

English department: writing and creative writing and publishing.

The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) gathered data from current and potential Northwest students. Knowledge of national degree programming trends demonstrated the need for the majors and concentrations.

The Bachelor in Science in English is being phased out.. Unfortunately, it did not provide the writing experience that most students wanted.

“Well, I think the changes are a good move because the two English degrees we have are very broad. They encompass literature, technical writing, publications, pedagogical studies, criticism, academic and scholarly work, etc. While having a variety of courses is good and keeps things fresh, it limits students. For instance, I’m more interested in creative writing and publications than I am technical writing and pedagogy. The new programs allow for English majors to specify and emphasize certain areas. The degrees will still have diverse course offerings, but will also allow for a more focused approach on the subject. I’m very excited to make the switch as soon as it is available,” said junior Korbin Jones.

In the crafting of each degree and concentration, the faculty working on these programs allowed students room for a variety of elective courses. The faculty are interested in continuing to foster, through these programs, the relationships between writing, rhetoric, literary studies, and language studies.

Robin Gallaher, Ph.D., said “I’m excited about the new majors. They were in the works for a couple of years and they were a collaborative effort between the faculty who teach the upper level writing classes in the department. At some point, all of the faculty got onboard in the process which is typical for a major change because you are going to want all of the faculty in your department to be a part of that process.

Prior to this, we had a Bachelor in Science in English and that degree allowed students to take a larger number of writing courses but it still had literature courses at its core.

These degrees change the core and so if I were to say what was the most fundamental change, it’s that these writing major degrees are going to have writing courses as their core.

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Topics on the floor of the Missouri legislature



FERGUSON

Bills requiring police officers to wear body cameras and measures to revamp the Missouri’s laws on police use of deadly force.



GUNS

Bills on firearms would allow guns on college campuses as well as allowing schools to apply for waivers if they have security measures at every entrance.



LAWSUIT LIMITS

Republican leaders will still be advocating for additional restrictions on liability lawsuits.



TRANSPORTATION

Lawmakers hope to find more funding to repair the state’s roads and bridges. One solution that’s been proposed is raising gasoline tax 1.5 cents per gallon and diesel tax 3.5 cents.



UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Protests which attracted national attention to Mizzou, along with administrators’ response, could come up in the Legislature.



VOTER PHOTO ID

Proposals on the floor would require voters to provide government-issued photo identification to use polls.

Missouri legislature prepares to tackle large agenda

DAVID MOGLER

Chief Reporter I @DavidMogler

Several hot-button issues that could affect college students across Missouri remain on the books for discussion for legislatures in 2016.

News headlines during the past several months read a variety of controversial topics in regards to equality, Constitutional rights, and political scandal.

The issues ranging from student gun rights to the ongoing controversy surrounding Melissa Click and Freedom of the Press continue as areas of interest for Missouri lawmakers and politicians.

Melissa Click, a faculty member formerly appointed a courtesy position at the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism called on attendees at a protest on the University of Missouri campus to remove and prevent student photojournalist Tim Tai from taking pictures of the event. Tai and protesters were on public property and such prevention directly violated Tai’s First Amendment rights. Despite the violations, many of the student protesters blocking Tai remained unaware of basic Constitutional protections under the Freedom of Press and Speech. Click stepped down from her appointment following the protest. However, pressure from some GOP lawmakers to fire Click continues to rise.

Student Regent Representative for Northwest Missouri State University Ve’Shawn Dixon claims that preventing such an event from escalating or occurring at Northwest lies in making the proper information

readily available for students.

“The information is there. I know that as a Student Regent and I know that from being on Student Senate. The information is there, we provide it, it’s just that not a lot of students know, and we don’t give them multiple access points... On our end, in order to promote and help people understand their rights, we need to give the students easier access to that information,” said Dixon.

Assistant Professor Fred Lamer explained that Northwest’s response to an employee found in a similar situation aside from termination should entail consequences.

“Well, I would hope that the institution would take some action to sanction the individual... It’s especially galling of course in Melissa Click’s case is that she came from a Communication background, not mass media... But nevertheless she acknowledged that she was well-versed in the First Amendment,” said Lamer.

Lamer furthermore explained the importance understanding Constitutional rights.

“...In (Communication) Theories we talk a lot about the First Amendment and Freedom of Expression... There are forums, the law looks at dedicated and traditional forums...where you’re entitled to maximum Free Speech... A public university is also a traditional public forum meaning that within certain parameters you’re free to engage in free and open dialogue,” Lamer said.“In terms of educating the populace, I don’t know, you tell me. There are people who take courses like Media Law or other classes that teach the...rights of cit-

izens at large...the average person, not just student, has only the vaguest understanding of the First Amendment and his or her rights...it’s a whole big consciousness-level attack. I mean, how do you get people to not smoke?”

An upcoming presidential election brings the controversial topic of voter ID laws, generally supported by the GOP, which require people showing up at the ballots to present a valid form of identification. The controversy stems from the intent of the laws which Lamer claims targets certain groups of people.

“It generally disenfranchises the poor... I think it’s a political tactic,” Lamer said, furthermore pointing out the increasing power of interest groups’ influence on politicians in what he proposed as a steady shift towards plutocracy as economic inequality widens the disparity between the upper and lower classes.

Those in support of identification laws claim that identification prevents the illegitimate ballots from being counted. Dixon proposes that the problem with successfully implementing identification laws lies in the presentation to the public.

“I think that it’s a good idea to verify to prevent fraud. I think that we can do a better job of telling people all about them and what it entails. I think if you keep the voter informed, then it’s fair for everybody...If you can help with accessibility, then those fears fall away,” Dixon said.

Lamer and Dixon agreed that a politically active, informed and engaged public remained the biggest hurdle in determining the socio-political landscape of Missouri and

the United States. Students can get involved in the Student Senate on campus and several resources for information on current events and politics remain widely available to students willing to seek it out. Dixon elaborated on a few of the opportunities and resources.

“The Legislative Reception is in March in the first couple of weeks.

What we do is take a couple of students to the capitol, Jefferson City, and they advocate for the different issues that affect campus legislation. We’re going to have a couple of seminars, we’re going to invite some former State Representatives and Representative that currently serve us now to teach us how to do that,” said Dixon.

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OUR VIEW:

Kansas City tobacco ordinances have no real consequences for minors

Kansas City, Kansas law officials have officially passed ordinances raising the age to buy tobacco products to 21. This decision has not been a popular one among many young smokers and has raised the question, is it worth it?

The ordinance passed in Kansas City in November has spread throughout the state of Missouri into cities such as Independence as late as Jan. 10. These ordinances also include vaping materials and e-cigarettes which are popular among younger people.

These ordinances were proposed and put into effect to prevent the use of tobacco products among young people.

However, this does not mean that people will not smoke at a young age. A lot of things are illegal for young people and they still find ways to get them and use it before they are of legal age. People start smoking at 14 and find ways to possess the cigarettes.

A lot of the popular products being sold today do not contain nicotine and are also smoke free, only containing vapor to inhale rather than the toxic chemicals in a cigarette. Yet they are still being outlawed to anyone under the age of 21 as well.

People breaking the law because of habit is something else to think about. Someone who is already addicted by the age of 19 is still going to want to smoke, so he or she will still try to find tobacco products. This sets people up to break the law just to try to cater to a long standing addiction.

And if this ordinance has a grandfather clause saying that you can still smoke as an 18 year old, however you can not buy cigarettes until you are 21, then what are the actual consequences? If we see no consequence with breaking this ordinance and possessing tobacco under the age of 21, why wouldn't someone break it?

When we turn 18, we are sup-



COLIN VAUGHAN

posedly responsible adults that are old enough to vote and fight in the army. We are supposed to have our lives somewhat figured out. If we are supposed to be an adult at the age of 18, why take away our right to buy tobacco?

If you are a responsible adult trusted with fighting for the country and voting for the leader of the free world, you should be trusted to make a choice regarding what you

want to do with your body.

If that choice is to smoke and use tobacco products, so be it. You should have the right to buy them.

The next issue we see is the damage done to the retailer. Tobacco products are some of the most profitable items for select retailers and raising the age limit needed to buy these products could greatly affect business.

The younger person will then

take his or her business elsewhere and travel to a city that will sell tobacco products, damaging the businesses and the economy of that city.

We need to be able to have our rights at the age of 18. These ordinances seem to have been put together at the last second with too many ways to get around it and no great benefits.

The cities should expect to see

an economy downfall with the absence of tobacco sales among young people, as well as the downfall of many businesses such as hookah bars that are designed to appeal to the young people.

This was a mistake and something that needs to be changed back to where it was. There was no problem with an 18 year old buying cigarettes, there is no reason to change it.

State of the Union gives Americans sense of hope



ZAC DUJAKOVICH
Opinion Editor
@Z_Dujakovich

President Obama held his last State of the Union address Tuesday Jan. 12. Obama came out with strong points and plans laid out for the rest of his presidency, as well as the next president's reign.

Not even two minutes in and Obama came out swinging with a confident attitude as he addressed issues facing America today.

One of the president's main focuses of the speech was the idea to fix politics. This is something I agree 100 percent on. We have

needed a major makeover for quite a long time now. Instead of focusing on who runs under which party or who has more products made in China, we need to focus on who is going to help us change and shape America in the way we want.

We can sit around and bash the other party as much as we want, but that will not prove that the party we support actually makes good points and has good ideas. We should all band together to take the best of our ideas and combine them to make something new that we can all support.

Obama also wants to rid America of the international policeman mentality. America does not need to get in the middle of every disagreement that takes place in the world. We need to focus on making America better

and stronger rather than focusing on if Greece is getting along with Egypt.

The idea that America would act as the international police was brought about in the early 1920s to show that we as a nation are superior and can settle any disagreement. But we can not do that anymore. We are no longer trying to fight the spread of communism, we are no longer trying to throw ourselves in wars that we don't belong in like we did in Vietnam. We do not need to be policemen for the world anymore.

Although Obama did bring up some strong points, there were some promises made that may seem a little far fetched. President Obama made a statement claiming that America will be the nation to kill cancer once and for all.

That seems like a bold statement.

I believe the world has been working on this for a very long time now. We did not forget about it and decide now that it needs to be brought back into our focus. Doctors and scientist have not stopped working on this. You can go to school to specialize in finding the cure for cancer.

While I approve of the enthusiasm Obama showed about the topic, I don't think it is just something we can turn our attention to and solve in no time. And for America to be the ones to cure it, that just does not seem realistic. There are plenty of countries with a better health system and better doctors than the ones we have in America. China, India and Germany are all examples of countries with better health services and better doctorate programs.

I personally think Obama did

great on his final State of the Union. He brought up points that need to be fixed, he brought up points that I believe we can all agree on. He delivered a speech that finally gave Americans hope and that is exactly what we all needed at this time.

When we look at the news and see all the problems in the world, we fear that everything is going downhill. With the continued gun issues facing Americans, the threat of ISIS, the hostage situation in Iran and the death of David Bowie, it is nice to look at the president and see that he still believes we will be OK and that he will continue to fight for us as citizens of the United States. It feels comforting and hopeful. This is what we needed from the president.

Strict gun laws are not the solution to gun violence



ANGELA LUNA
Contributing Columnist
@lunie95

President Obama recently proposed an executive order to strengthen gun control laws that has caused quite a stir.

Obviously Republicans and Democrats don't see eye to eye on this issue. Many argue that Obama has overstepped his boundaries in Congress with this executive order.

However, I agree with President Obama to some extent. We pretty much have these laws already. The media makes it seem like it is easy to obtain a gun in America, which is true in certain cases like a gun show

with private dealers.

In order to purchase a gun, you must buy one from federally licensed dealers.

For instance, if I purchased a gun online, that gun would be shipped to the nearest bureau that will perform a background check which could take many weeks and could end in a denial. I would also need to have a carry and conceal license to carry a pistol or some small hand gun.

The thing is with all of this is guns aren't the problem. Sick, twisted people who walk into a crowded area and shoot everyone in sight are the problem. Gun free zones clearly aren't working since they are a criminal's candy store.

A criminal knows that most public places, especially schools, are filled with defenseless people who

are easy targets. Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold had a plot to terrorize the students of Columbine High School in Boulder, Colorado knowing the students and staff would be unarmed on this tragic day. In the case of Virginia Tech, the most deadly mass shooting in the United States, the shooter also plotted the attack since college campuses can not bear arms.

If schools allow teachers and staff to have a concealed weapon in the classroom completely out of reach from the students in a safe with the gun on safety, maybe these tragedies wouldn't be so deadly. I also believe someone who has a mental disease (Clinical Depression, Schizophrenia, Asperger's, Autism, etc.) should not pass the background check to obtain a firearm.

People with outstanding criminal records should be denied from purchasing a rifle. But back to the actual gun, per say. A gun can be set down on a table and it's not going to get up and shoot someone. If we're going to ban guns, we might as well ban pens.

I can walk up to a student and stab him or her with it until he or she dies.

If I'm wearing a fashionable scarf, I can wrap it around a student and choke them to death so we might as well ban those too. I would never do that to someone, might I add, but you all get the point. A criminal is going to attack no matter what weapon or circumstance.

With that being said, our government shouldn't be punishing the law abiding citizens who rightfully con-

ceal a firearm. We should strengthen our security in schools not just by wasting time practicing pointless tactics in the case of a tragedy, but having staff trained properly and equipped in action. Our nation's borders need to be secured in order to prevent illegal foreign gun trade that is happening in the country.

So President Obama, let's stop forcing gun control on the people who continue to obey the law and let's worry about our nation's security which is clearly lacking. Especially since my twenty first birthday is next month, I can't wait to obtain my license, with a clean background might I add, in order to buy a pink pistol so I can protect myself in style.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | HANNAH WOODSON
President Barack Obama announced his four-part executive order during a speech delivered from the White House just days before the State of the Union.

GUNS
CONTINUED FROM B1

While these changes touch on many topics regarding gun control, Obama said more was still to be done and that the average citizen had a large role to play in the change.

"I mean, some of this is just simple math," Obama said. "Yes, the gun lobby is loud and it is organized in defense of making it effortless for guns to be available for anybody, any time. Well, you know what, the rest of us, we all have to be just as passionate. We have to be just as organized in defense of our kids. This is not that complicated. The reason Congress blocks laws is because they want to win elections. And if you make it hard for them to win an election if they block those laws, they'll change course, I promise you."

Gun control has proven to be a hot button issue in the past and still is. Following the president's executive order, CNN ran a poll that showed 67 percent of Americans agreed with the action taken while

32 percent opposed it. Sophomore Kyle Crane said he believed the changes are the beginning of what the country needs.

"Honestly, these changes aren't bad," Crane said. "It won't take away anyone's guns, it is just going to make it harder on the people that shouldn't have them. I actually think more can be done."

Not all students agree with Obama's changes. Some students are afraid that this is a first step to more drastic moves toward gun control. Junior Kenzie Grey said these changes may not have the effect many hope.

"I don't think these changes will help anything," Anderson said. "It wouldn't have stopped any of the attacks that have happened and it won't keep guns out of criminals in the future. I also think he kind of overstepped his bounds."

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden have made it clear in interviews that this is not the end of their plans for 2016. Obama stated in his speeches that the voices and opinions of the masses will be vitally important.

TOBACCO
CONTINUED FROM B1

President of the Ohio-based Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation Rob Crane said that so far it's been cities that have pushed the issue into the mainstream. New York City's law took effect in August 2014 and Boston's will change in February.

Lawmakers also cite last year's study from the Institute of Medicine which looked at the impact of raising the smoking age. The report projected that limiting sales to those 21 and older would result in about 249,000 fewer premature deaths for those born between 2000 and 2019.

Another oft-cited survey showed

an almost 50 percent drop in smoking rates among high school students in Needham, Massachusetts, a town of nearly 30,000 that raised the age in 2005.

Meanwhile, the smoking rate among high school students nationally has fallen steadily in recent years, reaching about 9 percent among high schoolers in 2014, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

"I think that is smart because smoking is very hazardous to your health and affects brain development in young adults," freshman Scout Montgomery said.

Advocates also point to the spike in the number of teens using electronic cigarettes. California and Hawaii have reported huge increases

es, with the latter seeing the rate of middle schoolers using e-cigs jump from 2 percent in 2011 to 12 percent in 2014.

Veterans groups, including the American Legion, have also criticized such proposals, saying that service members willing to sacrifice their lives should have the right to choose to smoke. And some estimates predict that states like New Jersey will lose millions in tax revenue.

"I don't think it's going to do much good. If an 18 year-old wants to smoke, they are going to get the cigarettes. It's just like felons possessing guns. It's going to happen no matter what the laws say can and can't happen," senior Jason Vanhorn said.

HOVERBOARD
CONTINUED FROM B1

In the National Fire Protection Association's report which includes safety tips, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy Lorraine Carli said the futuristic toy can pose several risks.

"NFPA has received requests for hoverboard fire safety tips and any relevant information on Lithium-Ion

batteries. These are fairly new to the mass market and there isn't a lot we know about them. The best advice we can offer is to read all manufacturer's guidelines, particularly those that apply to charging hover boards, and to follow some additional fire safety guidelines."

NFPA also gives other safety tips in its safety warning such as: never leave the board plugged in and unattended, never leave the board

charging overnight and only use the charging cord that came with the hoverboard. They also suggest consumers choose a device with the seal of an independent testing laboratory and be on the lookout for product updates from manufacturers and safety groups.

The ban is temporary. Baker said that until a clearer understanding of the dangers is presented, the ban will remain.



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| JAN 29 | Weekend Movie: The Intern 8 p.m. Station |
| FEB 06 | Eh440 7 p.m. Charles Johnson Theater |
| FEB 08 | Dr. Marc Lemont Hill 7 p.m. Charles Johnson Theater |
| FEB 11 | Self Defense Class 9 - 11 p.m. Tower View Room |
| FEB 12 | Speed Dating 6 p.m. Boardroom |
| FEB 17 | Chris Carter - Mentalist 7 p.m. Charles Johnson Theater |
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CROSSWORD

By Peter A Collins

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ### Clues Across

 - 1. Engine additive
 - 4. Soluble ribonucleic acid
 - 8. Subdue
 - 10. One long, three short
 - 11. Morally bad
 - 12. With collapsible shelter
 - 13. Central church parts
 - 15. Summer shoes
 - 16. Intestinal
 - 17. Transgressors
 - 18. Meeting expectations
 - 21. Clutch
 - 22. Autonomic nervous system
 - 23. What you can repeat immediately after perceiving it
 - 24. Favorite summer sandwich
 - 25. An accountant certified by the state
 - 26. Cologne
 - 27. Norma Jean Baker
 - 34. Galaxies
 - 35. Bluish greens
 - 36. Detected
 - 37. Having 3 dimensions
 - 38. Made level
 - 39. The destroyer (Hindu)
 - 40. Uncovered
 - 41. Ooze slowly
 - 42. Aerie
 - 43. Point midway between S and SE

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- ### Clues Down

 - 1. Having beautiful natural views
 - 2. Fanafuti is the capital
 - 3. Shrub used for hedges
 - 4. Polishing tools
 - 5. Slow down
 - 6. Christmas carols
 - 7. & & &
 - 9. Sound of sheep or goat
 - 10. A long flag, often tapering
 - 12. Atomic #73
 - 14. Schilling (abbr.)
 - 15. Female sibling
 - 17. Long sandwich
 - 19. In a way, necessitated
 - 20. Mayan people of SW
- Guatemala

 - 23. Cleaned up
 - 24. Prohibit
 - 25. Upright cupboard
 - 26. Cyclone center
 - 27. Metric linear units
 - 28. Young male
 - 29. Securities market
 - 30. City across from Dusseldorf
 - 31. Animal disease
 - 32. Mount of __ east of Jerusalem
 - 33. Get free
 - 34. Variable stars
 - 36. One point N of NE

To ‘The Man Who Sold the World’

ANTHONY ROSS
A&E Reporter | @AnthonyProcRoss

A chorus of remembrance plays out for an artist whose dedication to his music took him to ever sought after stardom. Jan. 10, 2016, will be known as the day David Bowie died from terminal cancer.

His legacy will live in the hearts of his fans, but his music will live longer. He acted as a symbol of originality for many who enjoyed the interesting mix of pop-folk and jazz-rock inspired songs he produced in his time. The empire Bowie built came from his fervent desire to please his fans and the results were absolutely stunning. A life devoted to many talents including singing, song writing, playing instruments, painting and acting, should not be forgotten and calls for proper retrospection.

Bowie's beginning was tough and he didn't have much success until "Space Oddity" was released in 1969. This happened to coincide with the lunar landing and granted him massive exposure in the U.K. through the BBC network.

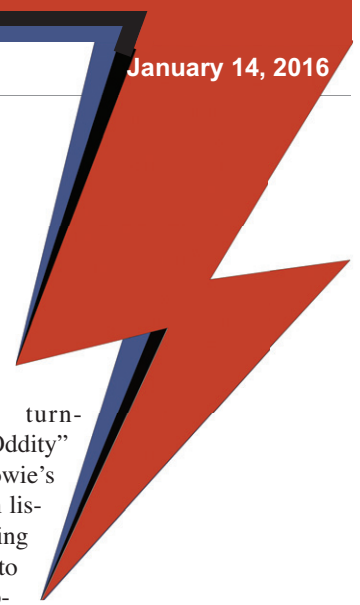
His fame faded until he released "Ziggy Stardust" in 1972. This album told the story about a rock star's duty as messenger for extraterrestrial life. The character Ziggy Stardust related themes controversial at the time by stretching the terms of gender and sexuality. Coupled with the album's immense popularity, Rolling Stone ranked it the "35th greatest ever," in their list of the 500 Greatest Albums of All Time.

Americans soon developed a taste for Bowie's style in 1975 when "Fame" dropped. An album he described as "plastic soul", or funky soul, came as an intriguing change of pace. Next, he released titles, "Low," "Heroes," and "Lodger" with Brian Eno, which were flavored with an electronic inflection. The variety Bowie could muster was truly impressive.

Sadly, this man was troubled with rampant cocaine and occasional heroin use. Reports were released of delusion and insanity directed at him along with massive deterioration of his body. He was able to recover by the end of the 70s, but the drugs had taken their toll.

Bowie's music is still extremely relaxing and relatable decades later. When taking a step back from life's inherent speed seems like the proper course of action, turning on Spotify and letting "Space Oddity" play never ceases to disappoint. Bowie's death should not stop people from listening to his music and appreciating what he stood for. It is important to remember those who have contributed so much to music.

The memory of Bowie's death was widespread in the cumulative power of the Web's news delivery. The Internet was plastered with people shouting their own virtual R.I.P. out to the masses. The volume and quality of his work are special to his fans. His death came suddenly and perhaps that is why the media coverage spiked and upset the Internet. Sixty-nine years on earth was enough for this spaceman and artist. I'll miss you, Bowie.



THE STROLLER: Your Woman needs feminism

If I hear another misogynist say the phrase "femi-nazi" again, I might pull out all of my hair. The word feminism has such a negative connotation in today's society that certain men felt the need to create the satirical version called meninism.

Here is the thing: nothing in the definition of feminism degrades the male gender. In fact, the dictionary defines feminism as "the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities."

So, tell me again what is so threatening?

Throughout history women have been the backbone behind social change. It was women in France who first took to the streets during the revolution when they couldn't afford the bread to feed their families. It was women who supported the educational reform and the need for better work environments. During the abolition movements, women put aside their petitions for equal rights to focus on freeing the slaves.

But it is still women that are seen as inferior or less capable.

Your woman needs feminism because she needs a strong community that understands her. She needs that motivation and drive to change this unfair social hierarchy.

Your woman actually wants you to listen and be engaged in the social issues that society is facing right now, particularly the ones that affect her directly. Hearing you talk about the wage gap and engaging in positive discussion about women in leadership positions will make your woman respect you and your opinion.

Try to listen to your woman when she talks about how the media sexualizes women and then look for it in your surroundings. Ignore the stereotypes and notice how your woman frequently breaks them. You might even become a feminist yourself.

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THE *Vibe*

January 14, 2016

B8

New Year, same old me

BECCA BOREN
A&E Editor | @beccalynnboren

Within 24 hours after the champagne is toasted and the first kiss is shared, the gym is flooded with hundreds of people determined to lose weight, be healthier and find their new selves in the new year.

By February, the crowd has thinned to leave the gym with the usual gym junkies and a few people still clinging to their resolutions.

New Year's resolutions are notorious for ultimately failing in the end. Every year, people make a list of things that they would like to change about themselves and hope that the new year gives them a clean slate to begin.

Freshman Cassie Baldus achieved her 2015 resolutions but she admits it was difficult to finish.

"Last year I set a resolution to read 150 books before the year was over," Baldus said. "I succeeded, but I ended up having to read children's books and middle school novels to do it. I don't know if I should actually count that as a win."

Despite her struggle with this resolution, Baldus enjoys the start of the new year and making changes.

"I love the idea of New Year's resolutions, but I don't think people need to change their whole lives."

Junior Cassidy Phillips is also familiar with the New Year tradition and she has a different perspective.

"I think that New Year's resolutions are a great way to set goals for yourself. However, I think that goals can be set at any point throughout the year," Phillips said.

Despite Phillips point, the Statistic Brain Research Institute reported that 45 percent of Americans make resolutions.

According to the International Health, Racquet and Sportsclub Association gym memberships increase by 12 percent of the total population, causing a 33 percent increase in each gym's average. Despite the mass influx of people going to the gym, 80 percent of new members will cancel their membership by the second week of February.

The Statistic Brain Research institute also collected data on the most common resolutions. The top 10 are: lose weight, get organized, spend less and save more, enjoy life to the fullest, stay fit and healthy, learn something exciting, quit smoking, help others in their dreams, fall in love and spend more time with the family. The most common type of resolution is self improvement and educational goals closely followed by weight related goals.

Only 8 percent of participants achieve their goals.

That number can be intimidating to those trying to make changes this New Year, but luckily Baldus and Phillips are offering up pieces of advice.

"Be diligent, but don't worry if you mess up sometimes," Baldus said. "If you eat an entire chocolate cake when you are trying to lose weight, it will be okay. If you get a B in a class when you were trying to get all A's, it will be okay. Give yourself some slack to make a mistake once in awhile. Life will go on and chances are next year you won't even remember that it happened."

Phillips advises those making resolutions to try and remember why they made the goal in the first place. She says to go back to the beginning and get inspired again, then keep pushing through.

After many failures, Phillips hopes her goals will stick. This year, Phillips is breaking from the normal self improvement resolution. She is going for a self sacrificing resolution.

"I want to spend more time helping others around me and showing them that I care," Phillips said.

Baldus says that she has not made a resolution yet, however, she is considering making a "mid-year resolution."

"I didn't make any resolutions this year because I didn't want to just come up with something that I actually didn't care about doing just for the sake of having a resolution," Baldus said.

Stanford News researched how New Year's resolutions link people with their ideal selves.

"When people resolve to change, they immediately feel more confident, in control and hopeful," Stanford writer Clifton Parker said.

Parker goes on to discuss the importance of having a small concrete goal in relation to a larger abstract goal. For example, if a person resolves to eat better that is the abstract goal. The concrete goal would be to eat two servings of vegetables a day. Those who think of their resolutions this way will be more likely to succeed.

Whether you succeed in your resolutions or not, the start of the year brings lots of changes. To those who did make resolutions: stay strong and keep at it. The only way to fail is to never try.

"The best resolutions are made as soon as you realize there is something you are passionate about doing whether it is the new year or not," Baldus said.

